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URBAN DISTRICT OF WOLVERTON

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Public Health Inspector

for the year

1 9 6 8

Principal Address of Medical Officer of Health:

Area Health Offices, 224, Queensway,

Bletchley, Bucks.

Telephone Number: Bletchley 4701

Local Address:

Public Health Department, Wolverton Urban District Council,

Council Offices, Market Square, Stony Stratford,

Wolverton, Bucks.

Telephone Number: Stony Stratford 2371

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URBAN DISTRICT OF WOLVERTON

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Medical Officer of Health

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Chairman of the Council: Councillor D. Hall, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor Elsie Wakefield

Councillors: Canvin, Hall, Higby, Johnson, Russell, Stock, Todd, Wakefield and Wesley

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health: P. LAVIS
(M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

The Medical Officer of Health is also the M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B., and Buckingham R.D.C., Bletchley U.D.C., Newport Pagnell R.D.C., Newport Pagnell U.D.C., Winslow R.D.C., Area M.O. for North Bucks and Divisional School M.O. for the North Bucks Division and Buckingham and Winslow District.

Deputy M.O.H.: J. P. HUTCHBY,
M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
(to 30th September, 1968)

Public Health Inspector: D. M. TUCKER
M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant: B. ROWLINSON

URBAN DISTRICT OF WOLVERTON

Council Offices,
Market Square,
Stony Stratford,
WOLVERTON,
Bucks.

3rd July, 1969

Mr. Chairman, Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1968.

Vital Statistics

Wolverton figures follow similar trends as national figures i.e. a falling death rate and a birth rate beginning to fall. Both figures are healthier than the national rates, though they imply an increasing proportion of elderly people.

Communicable Diseases

These diseases are now largely confined to those affecting children and, with a few exceptions, are mainly of nuisance value. Any infectious disease in a child not in good physical health is potentially dangerous and some common infections cripple even the healthy. The introduction of a measles vaccine during the year means that another hazard might eventually be eliminated altogether. In future, children will be offered this vaccine automatically, and more complete coverage will be achieved by computer recording which started on 1st January.

The Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968 came into operation on 1st October and among its provisions are new regulations dealing with infectious diseases and food poisoning. Some improvements have been made towards the detection of ill health in immigrants, but the situation is far from satisfactory.

An outbreak of abdominal illness affected a local secondary school, involving over seventy children and staff. No organism could be isolated from patients and the cause was not ascertained. It was assumed in the circumstances that this was one of the entero-viral infections which seem to be more common than formerly.

Environmental Health

Milton Keynes Development Corporation, like Wolverton Urban District Council have accepted the desirability of collating Smoke Controlled Areas for the new city and its environs. Before the necessary proposals can be put to the Ministry, much preliminary work will be required and on present staffing this will be impossible. Additional staff will be essential for this

work, and for the increasing amount of inspection and advisory work that will inevitably occur, even before the population builds up. Some form of co-operation with neighbouring authorities public health work will also help to cope with the multiple problems to be faced and I hope to be able to recommend a system for this co-operation in the near future.

Health Education

One of the monthly themes emphasized this year was poisoning hazards in the home. With the kind co-operation of several chemists, the public were invited to hand in their old and surplus drugs. A surprising amount of tablets were brought in, many lethal if misused. I hope that many people were also reminded by this means to safeguard these from children.

I would like to thank members for the continued interest they show in Public Health work.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

F. LAVIS

Medical Officer of Health.

S E C T I O N A

VITAL STATISTICS for the year	1968	1967
Area (in acres)	4,699	4,699
Population	13,600	13,570
Number of Inhabited Houses	5,077	5,007
Rateable Value (1st April, 1968)	£463,995	£447,440
Sum represented by 1d. Rate (Est. 1968/69)	1,970	1,830
Rate per £1	12/6	12/6

BIRTHS

Legitimate (Live):	Males	104	130
	Females	106	137
Illegitimate (Live):	Males	4	8
	Females	7	5
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population (adjusted)		19.4	24.5
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population, Bucks County		17.9	18.1
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population, England and Wales		16.9	17.2
Still Births		1	3

DEATH

Males	89	89
Females	83	87
Death Rate per 1,000 Population (adjusted)	10.8	11.1
Death Rate per 1,000 Population, Bucks County	9.1	8.9
Death Rate per 1,000 Population, England and Wales	11.9	11.2

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

(Death of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births)		
Wolverton	18.0	14.3
England and Wales.	18.0	18.3

	Males			Females		
	Total	Legit	Illegit	Total	Legit	Illegit
Live Births	108	104	4	113	106	7
Still Births	-	-	-	1	1	-
Deaths of Infants						
Under 1 year of age	3	3	-	1	1	-
Under 4 weeks of age	2	2	-	1	1	-
Under 1 week of age	2	2	-	1	1	-

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

	1968			1967		
	M	F	T	M	F	T
Cancer:						
Stomach	2	1	3	2	1	3
Lung, Bronchus	3	1	4	5	2	7
Breast	0	2	2	0	4	4
Uterus	0	2	2	0	2	2
Other	11	5	16	8	6	14
Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	10	22	10	14	24
Heart Diseases	30	34	64	41	27	68
Other Circulatory Diseases	6	8	14	3	9	12
Pneumonia	2	5	7	6	6	12
Bronchitis	6	2	8	3	3	6
Congenital Anomalies	2	0	2	0	0	0
Other Diseases	12	9	21	9	11	20
Accidents	3	4	7	1	1	2
Suicide	0	0	0	1	1	2
Totals	89	83	172	89	87	176

S E C T I O N B

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

1. Ambulance Service

(Tel. Bletchley 2565) Administered by Bucks County Council Main station at Bletchley with sub-stations at Newport Pagnell and Buckingham.

2. Hospitals:

Under the Oxford Regional Hospital Board. Patients are generally treated at Northampton. Out patients facilities available at the Meacham Diagnostic Clinic at Wolverton.

3. Laboratory

General Hospital, Northampton. (Tel. 34347)

4. District Nurses/Midwives

Area Superintendent Nursing Officer: Mrs. O. M. Riley (at Area Health Office, Bletchley) (Tel. Bletchley 4701).

5. Health Visitors

Superintendent: Mrs. D. L. Mariott at Area Health Office, Bletchley. Wolverton: 122, Church Street. (Tel. 2320)

6. Social Workers

(Medical, Welfare, Blind and Mental Health) Area Officer: Mr. P. K. Smith at Area Health Office, Bletchley.

7. Home Help Service

Area Organiser: Mrs. E. N. Franklin. Assistant Organiser: Mrs. P. B. Schorr (Tel. Wolverton 2320)

8. Industrial Unit

Whaddon Way, Bletchley.

9. Child Welfare Clinic

Held regularly at - Scout Hall, Wolverton: Scout Hall, Stony Stratford and 109, Newport Road, New Bradwell. Welfare foods are available at each centre.

10. Dental Clinic

122a, Church Street, Wolverton. Treatment offered to children and expectant mothers. In addition, schools are visited regularly by the dentist.

11. Health Education

Area Organiser: Miss P. Hayward at Area Health Office, Bletchley.

12. School Health Service

Administered from Area Health Office. This includes arrangements for examination of pupils in accordance with the Education Act, 1944, ascertainment of handicap and arranging for appropriate treatment. The Child Guidance Clinic is situated at Whalley Drive, Bletchley. B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis is carried out in the schools as well as boost doses of polio, diptheria and tetanus antigens.

13. Contraception Advice

Weekly clinics held at Whalley Drive Health Clinic, Bletchley by the Family Planning Association (by appointment Tel. Bletchley 2285).

14. Marriage Guidance Council

Whalley Drive Health Clinic, Bletchley (by appointment Tel. Soulbury 252).

15. Children's Department

Area child care officer: Miss J. M. Walker (Tel. Bletchley 4701).

S E C T I O N C

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifications with comparative figures for 1967

	1968	1967
Scarlet Fever	5	22
Measles	186	187
Pneumonia	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-
Sonne Dysentery	-	-
Virus Meningitis	-	-
Gastro Enteritis	-	-
Salmonella Infection	-	-
Erysipelas	-	1
Infective Hepatitis	10	-

Tuberculosis

One case was notified during the year.

S E C T I O N D

HOUSING ACTS

HOUSING

The affect of the anticipated early increase of population in the area as a result of building by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation will no doubt bring problems. The improvement of existing houses can be achieved but the economics of a widespread enhancement of housing standards can be costly.

The retention of decent modernised housing stock is an asset that should not be squandered. The housing programme in New Bradwell will bring many benefits and it will provide good modern homes for families now living in unfit dwellings but the overall housing stock of the district will not be increased.

S E C T I O N E

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

1. Water

Water is supplied and distributed by the Bucks Water Board. 133 samples were submitted for examination and none were found to be unsatisfactory.

2. Public Cleansing

This is on a satisfactory basis.

3. Sewage and Sewerage Disposal

With the exception of the Wealds of Calverton the district is served by water-borne sewerage disposal systems. It is our hope that the work of providing sewers will have commenced when next we prepare the annual report. The health risk has not diminished since a special report was presented to the Council. Indeed there is evidence of further pollution of ditches and water courses.

4. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

The statutory report has been forwarded to the Ministry of Labour.

5. Clean Air Act

The whole question of the implementation of smoke control areas is being kept under review. Some industrial waste disposal problems have occurred during the year.

S E C T I O N F

FOOD HYGIENE

General

The importance of the rotation of foodstuffs is still not apparently recognised. The deterioration of pies and sausages and the complaints concerning them has increased. Invariably it is found that the main cause is poor storage conditions allied with overlong shelf life.

Your department and manufacturers of such goods offer advice to retailers concerning the storage and display of their products. The greater majority of food workers at all levels co-operate and help at all times but with the results mentioned above, in some instances this advice is ignored or forgotten.

The public in bringing complaints to our attention are assisting us greatly in our endeavours to improve the hygienic handling and display of food.

Bacteriological Sampling

A total of 96 samples of food were submitted for bacteriological examination of which 12 were reported as being unsatisfactory. These cases are always investigated and resampling carried out.

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INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Details are given below of the type of foods voluntarily surrendered for destruction:-

Apricots	7 tins	Loganberries	1 tin
Baked Beans	3 "	Macaroni	2 tins
Bacon	182 lbs.	Meat Soup	5 "
Beefburgers	3 pkts.	Mixed Vegetables	5 "
Beefloaf	3 tins	Mussels	35 jars
Blackberries	3 "	Oranges	3 tins
Blackcurrants	8 "	Ox Tongue	2 "
Brisling	1 tin	Peaches	1 tin
Broad Beans	1	Pears	28 tins
Canned Ham	23 lbs.	Peas	1 tin
Cheese Burgers	5 tins	Pilchards	3 tins
Cherries	7 "	Pilchards in Oil	2 "
Chicken Soup	1 tin	Pineapple	8 "
Chopped Pork	3 tins	Pineapple Chunks	30 "
Cod Fillets	1 pkt.	Plaice Fillets	4 pkts.
Cod Fries	5 pkts.	Pork Ham	1 tin
Cod Portions	3 "	Process Peas	10 tins
Cod Steaks	10 "	Rice Pudding	20 "
Corned Beef	11 tins	Rissoles	7 pkts.
Crabmeat	1 jar	Sago	2 tins
Creamed Rice	2 tins	Salmon	1 tin
Faggot in gravy	1 pkt.	Semolina	3 tins
Fish Cakes	6 pkts.	Sardines	14 "
Fish Fingers	5 "	Sardines in Oil	6 "
French Beans	2 tins	Sausages	18¾ lbs.
Fruit Cocktail	3 "	Sausage Savouries	6 tins
Fruit Salad	11 "	Shoulder of Ham	19 lbs.
Garden Peas	10 "	Sliced Peaches	27 tins
Grapefruit	2 "	Spam	1 tin
Ham	13 lbs.	Steak & Kidney Pie	1 "
Jellied Veal	6 lbs.	Steaklets	2 tins
Kipper Fillets	1 pkt.	Strawberries	7 jars
Lamb (Carcass)	36 lbs.	Stuffed Pork	1 tin
Lambs Liver	28 lbs.	Soup	7 tins
		Tomatoes	52 "

Too many of the tinned goods listed above have been condemned because of container damage and perhaps this indicates dramatically how uncaring we are when food is plentiful.

I am sure that in areas of the world where near starvation almost constantly prevails precautions would be taken to avoid damage in transit and storage.

I have asked before that regard should be paid to the question of providing more robust packing but one supposes that an abundance of cheap food makes it economically impracticable to further strengthen and redesign crates and boxes.

S E C T I O N G

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	7	4	-
(ii) Factories not included in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	46	24	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	-	-	-	-
T O T A L	55	31	4	-

Number of cases in which defects were found

	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Ventilation that is inadequate (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable	4	4	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
T O T A L	4	4	-	1	-